

WHAT IS AN ALTERNATIVE RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT?

An Alternative Residential Placement is a group home facility or therapeutic family home setting that is operated outside the DSN system network of local Provider Boards. Alternative Residential Placements are pursued for individuals after efforts to provide in-home DSN community supports and/or residential services within the local DSN system have been implemented and/or exhausted. Alternative residential placements are authorized and approved through the Office of Clinical Services (OCS) at SCDDSN.

Alternative Residential Placements *are not automatically available or accessible* through this system of private providers. Consumers of DDSN must be referred, interviewed, and accepted for admission into placements by the private alternative placement provider.

Alternative Residential Placements for Children and Adolescents (e.g. high management group homes and therapeutic foster care homes) are **not** designed to be permanent placements. The goal of these residential settings is to enable children to overcome problem behaviors and develop skills to the degree that they may move to a less restrictive community placement with plans toward eventual return to their family home or an independent living environment. The average length of stay in an alternative residential placement for children is approximately 18 months but can be more or less time given the progress of the individual. Discharge planning in these placements should begin when an individual is placed. Movement to a less restrictive environment with community supports must be planned for by the local DSN Board/Provider agency who is providing case management once an individual has successfully met his/her treatment goals in an alternative residential placement.

Alternative Residential Placements for Adults age 18 and older (e.g. high management group home settings, therapeutic home settings) are designed to be long term placements. These placements are designed for adults that are aging out of children's services (licensing TFC homes as CTH Is after age 21 for an adult), adults who have resided in the regional centers who have not had opportunities to reside in the community, exhausted services within the DSN system, and who present with serious behavior challenges. Alternative residential placements for these individuals are available through direct contracts between DDSN and specific Private Providers outside the DSN system.